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Congressman Akin Speaks on FISA Flaws: Calls for the Protect America Act

Washington, DC - Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO) took to the House floor last evening to speak on the failure of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) process.

Akin criticized the FISA law when he said, "The FISA law is so cumbersome that it keeps our military from gathering life saving information in real time. This results in wasted time as our military must literally wait for hours to get permission to do its job."

The Congressman made mention of a situation that occurred this past May. An American soldier, Alex Jimenez, and his comrades were kidnapped in Iraq. In order to gain the necessary intelligence to rescue them, American military personnel had to wait for almost ten hours for approval of wiretaps on Al Qaeda.

Mr. Akin made an issue of the FISA law being so bureaucratic that it delayed the military for some ten hours by saying, "Alex Jimenez and his Army comrades could have been found but the FISA process grounded our military intelligence efforts. The bodies of his comrades were found dead and Alex Jimenez is still missing. This is a travesty."

Akin supports legislation called the Protect America Act that would allow our military to conduct intelligence surveillance without having to wait for the FISA process to give its approval.